

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2112

EXDIS

USEEC FOR EC BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: DENKTASH COMMENTS ON CLIFFORD PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: NICOSIA 2093 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FOLLOWING QUOTE IS EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF THE PORTION OF "TFSC PRESIDENT" DENKTASH'S STATEMENTS TO REPORTERS ON AUGUST 10 RELATING TO MR. CLIFFORD'S AUGUST 9 PRESS CONFERENCE: QUOTE: "...THE RECENT STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE U.S. POSITION EXPRESSED BY MR. CLARK CLIFFORD WERE ALSO TAKEN UP AT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER. I HAVE READ CAREFULLY THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF MR. CLIFFORD, AND HAVE SUFFERED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT. IT SEEMS THAT MAKARIOS WAS GIVEN SECRET PROMISES IN OUR ABSENCE, AND THA MR. CLIFFORD HAS HAD SECRET CONTACTS. ONE FEELS THAT IN VIENNA WE
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WERE BEING PUSHED TOWARD A CONCLUSION ON THE BASIS OF AN OBJECTIVE SET BETWEEN CLIFFORD AND MAKARIOS. THESE ARE THINGS THAT GRIEVE US, AND FORCE US TO BE AFRAID OF U.S. INTEREST OVER CYPRUS. MR. CLIFFORD ALSO CONFIRMED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS TRYING TO FORMULATE A CYPRUS STATE IN LINE WITH THE AIM OF MAKARIOS. THESE WORDS HAVE INFLICTED DEEP WOUNDS IN THE CONSCIENCE OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY. IT IS NOW CLEARLY EVIDENT

THAT THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH THE ARMS EMBARGO, IS ONLY AIMING AT SERVING GREECE AND THE GREEK CYPRIOTS. THE U.S. POSITION LEAVES US WITH ONE ALTERNATIVE AS REGARDS OUR FUTURE ACTION: WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR RESISTANCE AND WE SHALL NOT SUBMIT TO PRESSURES. EVEN IF WE ARE LEFT ALONE, WE SHALL DEFEND OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOM AND OUR LIBERATED LANDS. THE TURKISH COMMUNITY MIGHT FACE MORE DIFFICULT SITUATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREAN; WE HAVE TO FACE THIS. WE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO GIVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE BIG NATIONS TO REPEAT THEIR UGLY AND SHAMEFUL CRETAN GAMES IN CYPRUS. WE HAVE FAITH THAT WE SHALL BE HELPED BY THE TURKISH NATION. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: WE THINK THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT DENKTASH WAS NOT AWARE OF MR. CLIFFORD'S PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIM (REFTEL), BEFORE HE MADE HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT SINCE WE BELIEVE CHELIK MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 10. WE WERE TROUBLED BY TWO PARTS OF DENKTASH STATEMENT, (A) HIS ACCUSATION THAT MR. CLIFFORD HAD HAD "SECRET CONTACTS" WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, AND (B) ACCUSATION THAT MR. CLIFFORD GAVE THE ARCHBISHOP "SECRET PROMISES IN OUR ABSENCE....THAT IN VIENNA WE WERE BEING PUSHED TOWARD A CONCLUSION ON THE BASIS OF AN OBJECTIVE SET BETWEEN CLIFFORD AND MAKARIOS." ON THE FIRST POINT, DCM POINTED OUT TO CHELIK IN MEETING REPORTED REFTEL THAT MR. CLIFFORD HAD ONE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS WHEN LATTER WAS IN LONDON. ALL OTHER CONTACTS WERE BY LETTER; CONFIDENTIAL

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THE LONDON CONVERSATION WAS THE ONLY COMMUNICATION THAT WAS NOT MATCHED BY SIMILAR COMMUNICATIONS WITH MR. DENKTASH. ON POINT (B) WE FEEL THAT WE SHOULD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING, UNKNOWN TO TURKISH SIDE, BETWEEN MR. CLIFFORD AND THE ARCHBISHOP ON THE VIENNA TALKS.

3. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS: GIVEN THE NORMAL BEHAVIOR OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADERS, I BELIEVE THAT ANY CORRECTION OF THE RECORD SHOULD BE IN A LOW-KEY MANNER DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE DENKTASH FROM YET A FURTHER BOMSASTIC REACTION. I WOULD SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER MERITS OF MY SENDING A LETTER TO MR. DENKTASH TO POINT OUT THAT THE ONLY UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN MR. CLIFFORD AND THE PARTIES WITH REGARD TO THE VIENNA TALKS WERE (A) THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WOULD PRESENT A CONCRETE PROPOSAL ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, REFLECTING GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAT THEIR PROPOSAL OF APRIL 1975; (B) THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD PRESENT A CONCRETE PROPOSAL ON TERRITORY; (C) BOTH OF THESE TOPICS WOULD BE GIVEN EQUAL WEIGHT AND SIMULTANEOUS CONSIDERATION; AND (D) BOTH SIDES WOULD RESPOND MEANINGFULLY TO THE OTHER'S PROPOSALS. THE LETTER COULD TAKE TWO FORMS. IT COULD BE ON A PERSONAL BASIS FROM ME TO MR. DENKTASH OR I COULD NOTE THAT I AM WRITING AT MR. CLIFFORD'S REQUEST. ON BALANCE I

WOULD RECOMMEND THE FIRST FORMULA IN ORDER TO AVOID INVOLVING
CLIFFORD IN A POSSIBLY QUERULOUS EXCHANGE WITH DENKTASH.
CRAWFORD

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